

121 Conway St.  
Greenfield, Ma. 01301  
4/12/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD. 20852

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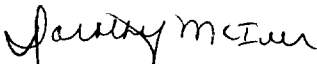
To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing regarding Docket Number 98N-1038. I am very upset to learn that a lobbying effort is now underway by food irradiators to convince your organization to euphemize or drop entirely the irradiated food label requirement, which as a result of your FDA Modernization Act of 1997, is up for review.

I am opposed to changing this regulation, as I most definitely want to know whether food has been irradiated. Serious questions exist concerning the safety of irradiation, including the possibility that it destroys vitamins in foods, creates toxins...like benzene, which is a carcinogen...of which the long-term effects of consumption are unknown, produces radioactive wastes, exposes workers to radiation and increases the likelihood for environmental accidents. In addition it is questionable irradiating food really kills bacteria, since at the DOE's Savannah River facility, storage pools filled with roughly 217,000 kilograms of used nuclear fuel rods are crawling with bacteria-up to 10 million bacteria per milliliter of the highly filtered water. The bacteria are not only impervious to the radiation, they are cutting microscopic pits and fissures into the fuel rods. (Isn't killing bacteria supposedly the whole point of this dangerous experiment?)

I do not want to eat anything that has been irradiated, and I expect when I go into a supermarket to buy food, that this information will be available to me and to all consumers so we can make educated choices for ourselves and our families. If the labeling is removed I will rely more on growing my own food and shop only at my local coop where I can be assured I am getting foods that have not been irradiated. Please do the right and responsible thing and keep the labeling intact.

Sincerely,

  
Dorothy McIver

98N-1038

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